

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 10, 2011

Agenda Item: Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Commercial Fishing Regulations

Division: Fish & Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Proposed Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP has received an application for a 2011 commercial fishing permit to harvest carp from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena. By statute, the Commission is authorized to approve one commercial fishing operation for each body of water and to establish specific regulations regarding gear, limits, seasons, closures and any other limitations deemed necessary. This application is for a Class B Permit that requires a fee of \$200 plus a \$1,000 Surety Bond. The Commission has approved the commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry and Lake Helena for the past four years. The proposed regulations are included in the information package.

The regulations for commercial harvest would authorize the taking of carp via active seining from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena. Monthly reports of harvest activity are required if the permit is issued.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena were originally approved by the Commission in 2005 following public notice and an opportunity for public comment. An environmental assessment was prepared to evaluate any potential impacts of this proposal on the human environment, and was distributed for public comment. The public will again be notified of the potential adoption of regulations for 2011. The public will have time to comment on the proposed regulations between tentative adoption of the regulations at the February 10 meeting and before final adoption of the regulations at the April 14 meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission has two options, tentatively approve the proposed regulations and solicit public comment prior to a final decision, or revise the proposed regulations and solicit public comment. Based on public comment, it may be necessary to revise the proposed regulations governing commercial fishing on Canyon Ferry Reservoir or Lake Helena, or to deny the proposed application for commercial fishing. That decision will be made at the April meeting.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Tentatively approve the application and regulations as proposed pending completion of the public comment process.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission tentatively approve the regulations for a commercial fishing operation on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena for 2011 pending public comment.